

# TURKEY – General Regulations

## RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE PRIVILEGES

Three wild turkey may be taken by hunters who possess one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, XJ, XS {beginning January 1, 2012}, AB-L, A-L, Classes A+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+WW, Classes XXJ+CS/LE or Class DT). Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a properly licensed parent, guardian or other designated competent adult 21 years of age or older. Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 8) may take three turkeys without a license. Two bearded turkeys may be taken in the spring and one either sex turkey in the fall. However, no more than one turkey may be taken in the fall. No more than one turkey may be taken per day.



## FIELD TAGGING, CHECKING AND TRANSPORTING

Each person killing a turkey must either attach a completed field tag to the turkey or remain with the turkey and have upon their person a completed field tag before removing the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not possess a field tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel the field tag shall be attached to the turkey and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with an official game checking tag.

The carcass of each turkey shall be delivered to an official game checking station or a Natural Resource Police officer for checking and retagging before it is either skinned or transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent to that in which the kill was made and within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first. The checking tag shall remain on the bird until it is dressed for consumption.

No person may transport wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof are accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the official game checking tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

## Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I (required for Class E).
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (must be age 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners hunting on their own land).

## Resident Landowner Privileges:

West Virginia resident landowners (see page 8) may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license.

Resident landowners hunting on their own property without a license can take the same number of turkeys as a licensed hunter. A hunter (licensee or landowner) cannot take more than the number of turkeys allowed in the respective seasons.

## Firearms and bows legal for hunting wild turkey:

Wild turkey may be hunted with rifles, handguns, muzzleloaders, shotguns, or bows (see exception for Youth Spring Gobbler Season on page 33).

## COMMON VIOLATIONS

Following are the most common violations observed by Natural Resource Police officers during the turkey hunting seasons:

- Hunting over bait
- Hunting without license
- Improper license
- Making false application for license
- Exceeding the limits
- Loaded gun in a vehicle
- Failure to field tag turkey
- Illegal possession of wildlife
- Hunting without permission

## REWARD

Reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of person found guilty of:

- illegally killing a turkey - \$200
- hunting turkey over bait - \$100
- willfully destroying a turkey nest or eggs - \$100

**Sponsored by:** WV Chapter of NWTf

# 2011 Fall and 2012 Spring Seasons – TURKEY

## 2011 FALL TURKEY SEASON REGULATIONS

### Season Limit: 1

Only one either sex turkey may be taken during the fall hunting season with either bow or gun.

### It is illegal:

- to use electronic calls.
- to hunt with the use of bait.



**Closed:** to all fall turkey hunting

### October 22-29

Cabell  
Harrison  
Jackson  
Lewis  
Mercer  
Monongalia  
Pleasants  
Putnam

Summers  
Tyler  
Wirt  
Upshur

### October 22 – November 5

Brooke  
Hancock  
Marshall  
Mason  
Ohio  
Preston  
Wood

### October 22 – November 19

Berkeley  
Grant  
Greenbrier  
Hampshire  
Hardy  
Mineral  
Monroe  
Morgan  
Nicholas  
Pendleton  
Pocahontas  
Randolph  
Tucker  
Webster

## 2012 SPRING GOBBLER SEASON REGULATIONS

### Season Limit: 2 bearded turkeys

**Statewide: April 23 - May 19, 2012**

**Shooting hours:** ½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.

### It is illegal to:

- have an uncased firearm or a bow in your possession in the woods after 1 p.m.
- hunt with dogs
- use electronic calls
- hunt with the use of bait
- take more than one bearded turkey per day

## SPRING GOBBLER SURVEY

The Division of Natural Resources conducts an annual Spring Gobbler Survey. Spring turkey hunters interested in participating in the survey should contact:

### Division of Natural Resources Operations Center

c/o Dr. Randy Tucker  
P.O. Box 67 • Elkins, WV 26241  
(304) 637-0245 • email: Randy.L.Tucker@wv.gov

## YOUTH SPRING GOBBLER SEASON

A special one-day youth spring gobbler season will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

The bag limit is one bearded turkey and the harvested bird will count toward the hunter's annual bag limit. Only shotguns using shot size no larger than #4 or smaller than #7½ are legal.

### Youth hunters:

- must be at least 8 and less than 18 years old; youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements (see pages 41),
- youth hunters (age 8-14) must be accompanied by a licensed adult who cannot carry a gun or a bow and must remain close enough to render advice and assistance.

**and, if a nonresident,**

- possess a Class XXJ license + CS/LE stamp.

**Nonresident adults accompanying youth hunters must possess Class E+WW+CS/LE licenses and if hunting on National Forest lands, a Class I stamp.**